

Tel: 02-205-4113 ▪ Fax: 02-650-8918 ▪ E-mail: irc@state.gov

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center is pleased to offer you an "Issue-in-Focus" on Global Issues and Environment.

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EARTH DAY 2010

MARCH 22, 2010

"Today, environmental awareness and activism are on the rise across the world – proof that Earth Day's teachings have begun to change all of us, and change the environment we share. We have come a long way these last 40 years, but we have so much more to do. And we need your help to do it."

-- [Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, April 19, 2010](#)



Forty years after the first Earth Day, the world is in more peril than ever. While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity – an unprecedented chance for the world to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

This Earth Day provides a pivotal opportunity for individuals, corporations and governments to cooperate together and create a global green economy. On this, the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, take some time to learn how you can join people around the world who are helping to protect our air, water and planet for future generations by making just a few small changes in your day-to-day life.

EARTH DAY: MAKE A COMMITMENT

[President Obama Challenges Americans to Take Action to Improve the Environment in Honor of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day](#) - "[Even] though we've made significant progress, there is much more to do. And as we continue to tackle our environmental challenges, it's clear that change won't come from Washington alone. It will come from Americans across the country who take steps in their own homes and their own communities to make that change happen." [Read the full transcript](#) | [Watch video message](#)



[Secretary Clinton's Remarks on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day](#) - "The Obama administration has taken concrete steps toward achieving these goals. Under the President's leadership, the United States has reengaged in international climate negotiations and we are more aggressively working to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. And at the State Department, we are elevating environmental issues in our diplomatic relationships and forging new partnerships to better engage on those global challenges." [Read the full transcript](#) | [Watch video message](#)



[Creating a 21st Century Strategy for America's Outdoors](#) - President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum launching the America's Great Outdoors Initiative today, which focuses on promoting community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces.

GOING GREEN

[The Americas Move Forward on Clean Energy](#) - More than 30 energy ministers and delegates from 32 Western Hemisphere countries spent two days in Washington discussing collaborative approaches to a low-carbon future and new partnerships that will help address clean energy and energy security concerns in the region.

[Water Systems: Earth's Vital Networks](#) - Human well-being and sustainable economic prosperity depend upon our good stewardship of the Earth's vital ecosystems. Water ecosystems serve many functions essential for human society: They provide food resources, biodiversity, habitats for wildlife, high water quality, regulation of water flows, and natural storage that helps us absorb shocks like floods and droughts.

[A Timeline of Environmental Treaties](#) - The United States, whose pollution control laws serve as models for other nations, remains a leader in identifying, mitigating and remediating environmental hazards.

MARINE BIODIVERSITY PHOTO GALLERY



Biodiversity encompasses the earth and the seas, the air that surrounds the planet, and all life sustained upon it. Wise human stewardship is required to safeguard the earth's continued abundance. Earth Day reminds us that all creatures depend upon water for life. Learn more about [Oceans](#) | [Wetlands](#) | [Coral Reefs](#) | [Biodiversity](#).

DON'T MISS OUT! MY EARTH DAY 2010 PHOTO CONTEST

President Obama is challenging citizens to make small changes in their everyday lives to help protect the environment. For this year's Earth Day, April 22, we'd like to see what YOU are doing to address climate change!



Add a photo to our group, <http://www.flickr.com/groups/myearthday2010/>, that shows an action you took to lessen the impact of climate change. Some examples: taking public transportation, planting a tree, switching to energy-efficient light bulbs, and collecting rain water.

The best photos will be included in a photo album on our [Global Conversations: Climate](#) Facebook page during the first week of May. We may even publish them in an upcoming feature on <http://www.america.gov>.

Follow the flickr link above for more instructions on entering the contest.

Learn more about [Earth Day 2010](#) at [America.gov](#)



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